will in this light be closly examined by the Select Committee before they are brought up again for fuller consideration by the Council. I would add that this Bill has been drafted on the lines of the Madras Act, IV of 1889.

With these remarks, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be read in Council, and its principle affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Padmanabha Iyer.

Carried.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer then proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Raman Pillai, Madhavan Tampi and the Mover, to report within two months.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

It was also resolved that the Excise Commissioner be invited to be present at the deliberations of the Select Committee.

## THE TOBACCO BILL.

Mr. Raman Pillai.—Permission has been granted to introduce the Tobacco Bill in the Council, and the draft Bill, with the Statement of Objects and Reasons, has been duly published in the Government Gazette, and copies thereof circulated among the Members. In introducing this Bill, I have very little to add to what I have already said in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. The most important deviation contemplated in the Bill, from the existing tobacco law, is the concession to the public to cultivate the tobacco plant, and I hope this deviation calls for no explanation or apology.

Another point to be noted is that, in offences against the tobacco law, the accused is required to prove his innocence, instead of the prosecution being called on to establish the guilt of the accused. This also requires no explanation, being a feature of many special laws of this kind, conceived in the interests of the public revenue.

The Bill also effects a slight alteration in the procedure in regard to prosecutions for offences against its provision, by making the charge-sheet presented by the Excise officer a sufficient basis for the commencement of proceedings. With these brief remarks, I beg to recommend that the principle of the Bill be affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Mr. Raman Pillai then proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Messrs Ananda Row, Sri Narayanan Tampi and the Mover, to report within two months, Mr. N. Raman Pillai, the Excise Commissioner, being requested to attend the meetings of the Select Committee.

The motion was put and agreed to.

## THE HIGH COURT REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Sir, the Bill is now before the Council for final reading But, before moving that it be read again and passed, I have, on behalf of Government, to propose an amendment, in order to supply a verbal omission in Section 11 of the High Court Regulation. That Section, while it empowers a Division Bench of the High Court to hear and determine appeals from the decrees, orders, &c. o the District and Sessions Courts, makes no mention of appeals from the decision of the Munsiffs, in cases where such appeals lie direct to the High Court, unde Section 16 of the Civil Courts Regulation, II of 1084. I therefore propose that tl following be inserted as Section II of the Bill, the present Section II being numbere as III:—

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